

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application, as amended is respectfully requested.

The examiner has objected to the drawings for the reason that the drawings do not show the friction disk 45 as being fixed to the plate 48, as described in the last sentence of the paragraph beginning at line 24 of page 4. This inconsistency has been obviated by changing reference numeral "45" to --46--. It is clear from Fig. 3 that the friction disk 46 is secured to the driver disk or backing plate 48.

Claims 15-19 are pending in this application.

Claims 15-19 are under a rejection based on 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement for the reason that the claims are alleged to contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor, at the time the invention was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Apparently, what the examiner is contending is that an antecedent basis cannot be found in the specification for some of the terminology used in the claims. In particular, the examiner states that the limitation "a drive shaft element mounted along said drive axis and having integral first and second portions", set forth in lines 8-10 of claim 15 does not have antecedent basis in the specification. This defect is thought to be overcome by deleting the unsupported terminology from claim 15 and substituting terminology which is supported by terminology added by way of amendment to the paragraph beginning at line 17 of page 5. Specifically, a new part b) has been added to claim 15 wherein it is stated that the first and second slip clutches include "respective drive elements located along a drive axis"; and this terminology finds support in a sentence added to the above-identified paragraph wherein it states "the inner sleeve 39 and stub shaft 61 form a **drive shaft element** that forms and integral part of the clutch 27 " (emphasis added). This description is accurate as can be determined by viewing Fig. 3, wherein it can be seen that the inner sleeve 39 is welded to the stub shaft 61 and that the sleeve 39 and stub shaft 61 are respectively welded to the plates 43 and 44. A part c) has been added to claim 15 which recites that "a connecting shaft" extends between the first and second slip clutches and is coupled to respective first ends of the drive shaft elements. The term "connecting shaft" is mentioned at line 21 of page 3 of the

specification.

Claim 19 has been amended to reflect the changes made to claim 15 and to make it clear that the drive element of each of the slip clutches includes a sleeve joined to a stub shaft.

Applicant submits that the claims as now presented do not include new matter since they contain only a description of the subject matter disclosed in the original application.

In conclusion, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Any fees or charges due as a result of filing of the present paper may be charged against Deposit Account 04-0525. Two duplicates of this page are enclosed.

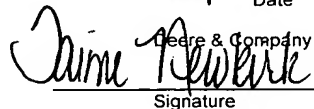
Respectfully,


Attorney for Applicant(s)

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Jimmie R. Oaks
Reg. No. 24,987
Patent Department
Deere & Company
One John Deere Place
Moline, IL 61265
Telephone No. (309) 765-4392

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited
with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an
envelope addressed to
Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22304-1450
on: 24 September 2004
Date

 24 September 2004
Signature Date